MEMBER: A personal visit of Your Excellency to the place where the Municipal Council is being held will convince you of the need for a building, and I am sure that, if only you make a visit, you will not consider it safe for us to hold our meetings there.

DEWAN: Will it be safe for me to do that? I cannot promise an immediate visit.

MEMBER: You may do it conveniently.

DEWAN: You ask for disbursing the grant this year. Subject to a reduction, for which there is special reason, it will be disbursed in the usual course.

All that you say in connection with the new Bill is noted. As soon as the draft Bill is examined, it will be submitted for legislative sanction.

66. Certain needs of municipalities.

MR. K. G. MAMMAN (*Municipal Council, Kayankulam*) represented the need for transferring all *poramboke* lands, including road *porambokes*, within municipal limits, to the respective Municipal Councils. The *porambokes* were under the control of either the Revenue or the Public Works Department. But the Municipalities had to deal with these lands and the absence of control over these lands led to many inconveniences. The member cited some instances and said that at the All-Travancore Municipal Conference held at Nagercoil in 1105, it was resolved that the Government be requested to transfer the control over the *poramboke* lands within municipal limits to the Municipal Councils. He requested that the Government should bestow their early attention on the matter and do the needful.

Another point urged on the attention of the Government was about the necessity of appointing a separate auditor for the Municipalities in the State. The existing system of auditing the accounts was not satisfactory. In British India, the Taluk Boards had a separate auditor. The same system could be adopted here also with advantage.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Mamman, all these matters will be considered in drafting the new Municipal Bill.

67. Grant of permission to the Haripad Municipal Council to levy tolls.

MR. A. C. RAJA RAJA VARAMA KOILTAMPURAN (*Municipal Council, Haripad*) said that the financial condition of the Haripad Municipality was quite poor. The total income of the Municipality came to only a little over Rs. 2,500 a year, including the Government grant of Rs. 500. The major portion of the revenue was collected under house-tax. The Municipality had not sufficient funds even for its immediate necessities, not to speak of the various improvements it had to effect for the welfare of the people. The citizens of Haripad had been agitating for the abolition of the Municipality owing to the heavy burden of taxation imposed by the Municipal Council. There was, however, one method by which the finances of the

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Municipality could be improved and the institution made more useful. This was by levying tolls on buses and cars that plied through the municipal area. More than 100 such vehicles passed through the town daily. It was only reasonable that they should be made to cuntribute a small share of their profit to the Municipality. The Government had allowed the levy of tolls in the case of some Municipalities in the State, such as Attingal and Tiruvella, thus giving them an opportunity to stabilise their revenues. The levy of tolls would also enable the Municipal Council to afford some relief to the people from the heavy house-tax that has been brought to bear on them. The Haripad Municipal Council had passed many resolutions urging on the Government to sanction the levy of tolls, but the Government had not yet accorded the necessary sanction. Early sanction should be accorded for the purpose.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Raja Raja Varma Koiltampuran, the right to levy tolls has been claimed by several Municipal Councils. I shall call together shortly a conference of all Municipalities to discuss and settle the question of maintenance of roads by them. When that has been settled, the question of the right of Councils to levy tolls will be taken up for disposal.

68. Municipal reforms.

MR. V. K. OOMMAN (*Municipal Council, Mavelikara*) first spoke about the necessity for amending the Municipal Regulation, V of 1095. The provisions of the Regulation which were copied from British India without adequate reference to the needs of the State, were unsuitable to local conditions. Further, it was more than 12 years since the Regulation was passed and the times were so changed as to necessitate the early amendment of the Regulation. Many of the Sections of the Regulation were vaguely worded and more interpretations than one were possible in the case of several of them. Sections 61, 81, 84, and 233 were instances in point. Section 241 gave power to Sanitary Inspectors to prosecute people even without the specific sanction of the Council. There were cases of such prosecutions as well as compoundings by them without the knowledge of the Council. Again, a vehicle registered in one Municipality and paying tax to that Municipality, was forced to pay toll to another Municipality, when it passed through its limits. If the owner of the vehicle applied for registration in such Municipality also, the application was refused, as income by way of tolls was more advantageous than the payment of registration tax. Such a practice was undesirable and should be put an end to. There were other similar instances which would show the need for amending the Municipal Regulation. A committee should be appointed to go into the question of amending the Regulation so as to make it suitable to local conditions.

Another point urged by the member was the absence of uniformity in the bye-laws of the several Municipalities. There were some bye-laws which were against the provisions of the Regulation. The bye-laws should be translated and published for the information and guidance of the public.

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